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Economic and Social Council

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E/1991/98
13 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Second regular session of 1991
Geneva, 3-26 July 1991
Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda*

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Institutional developments related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In resolution 45/201, the General Assembly, stressing the principle of free and fair global trade, which should be conducive to a significant enhancement of the trade and development prospects of all countries, in particular developing countries, and the need for strengthening institutional arrangements in the area of international trade, with a view to reinforcing further the multilateral trading system, reaffirmed Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/57, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on institutional developments, taking into account all relevant proposals related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade. In preparing that report, the Secretary-General was requested to solicit the views of all Governments and the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system on this matter.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has entrusted the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with the preparation of the report requested. On 17 April 1991, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD wrote to 25 executive heads of the specialized

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* E/1991/100.

agencies and relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, requesting replies by 17 May 1991. In order to facilitate consideration of the issues involved, his letter was accompanied by a note providing historical background with respect to proposals (both from Governments and the academic community) for strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateral trade, beginning with the negotiation of the Havana Charter for an International Trade Organization and including ideas that have been presented recently. The revised note will be made available to Governments when soliciting comments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/201.

3. As at 29 May 1991, replies had been received from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the secretariat of the International Law Commission. Other organizations have indicated that replies will be forthcoming.

4. An oral report will be presented to the Council at its second regular session of 1991. Appropriate steps will be taken to solicit the views of all Governments, with the objective of submitting a final report to the General Assembly for consideration at its forty-sixth session.

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Second regular session of 1991
Geneva, 3-26 July 1991
Item 8 (1) of the provisional agenda*

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Effective mobilization and integration of women in development

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In resolution 1989/106 on effective mobilization and integration of women in development, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to maintain the section on the socio-economic attainment of women in the World Economic Survey and to incorporate, inter alia, statistical indicators on income distribution, health, nutrition, fertility and education. It also provided guidance on the focus for the next issue of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development. Finally, it recommended that the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat play a central role in the intensified coordination of statistical data within the United Nations system on women in development and that United Nations sectoral studies be planned and published in a mutually supportive manner. The Council did not call for a specific report; however, the present note indicates the steps taken to implement the resolution.

2. The World Economic Survey continues to have a section on the socio-economic attainment of women. The World Economic Survey, 1991 (E/1991/75) will be before the Council.

3. The guidance provided by the Council, as well as by the General Assembly, on the preparations for the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development was taken into account in a draft outline discussed and generally agreed to at

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* E/1991/100.

the Fifteenth Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Women, held at Vienna from 11 to 12 March 1991. After further work, an updated progress report on the Survey will be presented to the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1993, through the Commission on the Status of Women.

4. As a result of extensive inter-agency cooperation in the area of statistics on women in development, a major United Nations publication entitled The World's Women 1970-1990 - Trends and Statistics (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XVII.3) is to be issued in June 1991. The publication contains statistics and indicators, many not previously published by the United Nations, on all aspects of women's lives. Chapter VI, entitled "Women's work and the economy", is particularly relevant to the question of effective mobilization of women in development.

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11 June 1991

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Second regular session of 1991
Geneva, 3-26 July 1991
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991 in section I, the organization of work in section II and the annotations to the provisional agenda in section III.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991 of the Council has been drawn up on the basis of the list of items approved by the Council at its organizational session for 1991 (decision 1991/202) and taking into account the decisions subsequently adopted by the Council at its first regular session of 1991.

Provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments.

3. Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council.

4. Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries.

5. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

6. International cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl.

7. Regional cooperation.

8. Development and international economic cooperation: 1/

   (a) Trade and development;

1/ For its consideration of the item, the Council agreed on the following clustering of sub-items:

First part: sub-items (a) and (b);

Second part: sub-items (c) and (d);

Third part: sub-items (e), (f) and (g);

Fourth part: sub-items (h), (i) and (j);

Fifth part: sub-item (k);

Sixth part: sub-item (l);

Seventh part: sub-item (m).

(b) Food and agriculture;

(c) Science and technology for development;

(d) Transnational corporations;

(e) Natural resources;

(f) Population;

(g) Statistics;

(h) Human settlements;

(i) Environment;

(j) Desertification and drought;

(k) Transport of dangerous goods;

(l) Effective mobilization and integration of women in development;

(m) World Decade for Cultural Development.

9. Industrial development cooperation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries.

10. International cooperation in the field of informatics.

11. Operational activities for development.

12. Coordination questions.

13. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

14. Programme and related questions:

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

(b) Calendar of conferences.

15. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

16. Disaster reduction and relief:

(a) Fight against the screw-worm infestation;

(b) International strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa;

(c) Disaster relief coordination.

17. Special economic and humanitarian assistance.

18. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

2. The proposed programme of work for the second regular session of 1991 of the Council has been drawn up on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in section I. Due account has been taken of the relevant provisions of Council resolutions 1988/77 of 29 July 1988 and 1989/114 of 28 July 1989 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, the decisions taken by the Council at its organizational session (see decision 1991/202), as well as relevant decisions taken by the Council at its first regular session.

3. Attention is drawn to Council decisions 1990/205 of 9 February 1990 and 1991/202 of 7 February 1991, as well as to Council resolution 1990/68 of 27 July 1990 and General Assembly resolution 45/182 of 21 December 1990 concerning the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with ministerial participation, which will take place on 4 and 5 July. The Special High-level Meeting will be preceded by a one-day preparatory meeting to be held on 2 July. A separate provisional agenda and organization of work has been issued for the Special High-level Meeting.

4. In its resolution 45/195 of 21 December 1990 on the report of the South Commission, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the Economic and Social Council, to convene, within existing resources, not excluding voluntary contributions, during the second regular session of 1991 of the Council, a meeting devoted to an informal exchange of views on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the South Commission, in particular in its overview and summary. This meeting has been scheduled to take place on the afternoon of 3 July. It is also expected that introductory statements in connection with the report of the South Commission will be delivered in the latter part of the opening meeting on the morning of 3 July.

5. In its decision 1991/211 of 25 March 1991, the Council decided to hold, at its second regular session of 1991, an informal exchange of views on the economic, social and environmental consequences of the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and its short-, medium- and long-term implications. The informal exchange of views on this matter has been scheduled to take place on 12 July.

6. At its organizational session for 1991, the Council decided on the following allocation of items: items 1 to 6 would be considered in plenary meeting; items 7 to 10 by the First (Economic) Committee; and items 11 to 17

by the Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee (decision 1991/202, sect. E). At its first regular session, the Council decided to allocate item 18 to the Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee.

7. The second regular session of the Council will open at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 3 July 1991, at 10.30 a.m.

A. Matters relating to items to be considered in plenary meeting

8. In connection with item 2, the Council, in paragraph 20 of its resolution 1989/114 on further measures for the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, decided that the general discussion on international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments, should not exceed four days and that statements made should not exceed 15 minutes in order to ensure that the general discussion is fully effective and substantive. In its decision 1990/263, the Council decided to focus, at its second regular session of 1991, in its general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments, on the question of strengthening multilateral cooperation in international economic affairs, to be considered on the basis of a report to be prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with Council resolution 1989/111 of 28 July 1989. In paragraph 22 of its resolution 1989/114, the Council decided that, after the conclusion of all the statements in the general discussion, one day should be devoted to an informal exchange of views among members of the Council, with the active participation of the executive heads of organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerned.

9. The general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (item 2), will begin on Monday, 8 July, at 10 a.m. and end on Thursday, 11 July. The list of speakers for the general discussion was opened in New York on Monday, 3 June, at 10.30 a.m. and will be closed at Geneva on Monday, 8 July, at 6 p.m. 2/ The afternoon of Thursday, 11 July, has been set aside for an informal exchange of views on the question of strengthening multilateral cooperation in international economic affairs in accordance with paragraph 22 of Council resolution 1989/114.

10. In accordance with established practice, the executive secretaries of the regional commissions will address the Council under item 2. In this connection, attention is drawn to the fact that the morning of Tuesday, 9 July, has been allocated for the statements of the executive secretaries. Considering that, as in previous years, delegations will have an opportunity

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2/ Delegations wishing to take part in the general discussion are requested to notify the secretariat of the Economic and Social Council (room S-2977A, telephone 963-5717).

to have an informal exchange of views with the executive secretaries, members may wish to take note of that date.

11. In accordance with past practice, it is suggested that a time-limit of 10 minutes be set for statements under items 3 to 6.

B. Matters relating to the work of the sessional committees

12. In paragraph 23 of its resolution 1989/114, the Council decided that the sessional committees should not begin their substantive work until the conclusion of the general discussion and that, to the extent possible, those committees should devote more time to a constructive dialogue on the agenda items under consideration, with the active participation of representatives of the organizations of the United Nations system concerned. However, in view of the heavy agenda before the Council at the second regular session, the Council decided at its first regular session that the two sessional committees should each hold one meeting a day between 8 and 11 July. Accordingly, it is proposed that the First (Economic) Committee and the Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee begin their work on Monday, 8 July.

13. At its organizational session for 1991, in connection with the items for consideration at its second regular session, the Council, by its decision 1991/202, decided:

(a) To consider under the item entitled "Regional cooperation", in pursuance of Council resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982 and taking into account the joint recommendations made by the executive secretaries of the regional commissions pursuant to Council decision 1982/174 of 30 July 1982, the question of strengthening the role of the regional commissions to promote subregional, regional and interregional cooperation;

(b) To undertake an in-depth review of the report of the World Food Council on the work of its seventeenth session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/217 of 18 December 1984, and to submit recommendations thereon to the Assembly for consideration and action;

(c) That when reviewing the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its sixteenth session, the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its thirteenth session and the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session, it would not consider draft proposals, except for specific recommendations contained in those reports that required action by the Council and proposals on matters relating to the coordination aspects of the work of those bodies;

(d) To consider the report of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the second part of its thirty-seventh session and to transmit directly to the General Assembly the report of the Board on the first part of its thirty-eighth session.

14. The Council is reminded that, when considering the report of the United Nations Development Programme, it has been the practice of the Council not to consider the parts of the report dealing with technical cooperation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the United Nations Volunteers programme, except for any recommendations contained in those parts that require action by the Council, since the General Assembly is to consider those questions at its forty-sixth session.

15. At its first regular session, the Council decided to cluster the following items for consideration in the Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee: items 15, 16 (c), 17 and 18. It further decided to consider the following reports listed under item 12, Coordination questions, as part of this cluster: (a) note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows" and the comments of the Secretary-General and of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon, and (b) the report of the Secretary-General on the system-wide review on coordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees.

16. In accordance with past practice it is suggested that a time-limit of 15 minutes be set for statements under clustered items, and a time-limit of 10 minutes for statements under other items.

Availability of conference services

17. The attention of the Council is drawn to the following conference-servicing aspects of the second regular session:

(a) During the first three days of the session (3-5 July), interpretation facilities will be provided for plenary meetings only. From 8 to 24 July, interpretation facilities will be available for concurrent meetings of the plenary and the two sessional committees. As from 25 July, interpretation services will be provided for plenary meetings only;

(b) There is no provision for conference services for night meetings during the session;

(c) Beyond the conference services allocated to the Council (see subparagraph (a) above), no additional services will be available for informal consultations or for regional or group meetings. In the event of scheduled meetings being cancelled, it is anticipated that those services could be made available for such consultations;

(d) Unless otherwise specified, all meetings will begin punctually at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Summary records and statements in explanation of vote

18. In its decision 1989/174 of 26 July 1989, the Council decided to discontinue for a further period of two years, from 1990, summary records for the sessional committees (First (Economic) Committee, Second (Social) Committee and Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee). Delegations wishing their statements in explanation of vote to be reflected in the summary records of the Council should make such statements in plenary meetings, at the time the reports of the sessional committees are considered, without prejudice to any other statements that they may wish to make in the committees. In this connection, observers wishing to make statements on the recommendations contained in the reports of the sessional committees are requested to do so before statements in explanation of vote are made by members of the Council.

Statements in exercise of the right of reply

19. It is suggested that, bearing in mind the provisions of rule 46 of the Council's rules of procedure, the Council continue its practice concerning statements in exercise of the right of reply, namely, that delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings are devoted to the consideration of the same item, that the number of interventions by any delegation at a given meeting should be limited to two per item, and that the first intervention be limited to five minutes and the second intervention be limited to three minutes.

Schedule of meetings

(Geneva, 3-26 July 1991)

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
Week of 1-5 July			
Wednesday, 3 July			
10.30 a.m.	Opening of the session Item 1: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters		
11.30 a.m.	Report of the South Commission Introductory statements		
3 p.m.	Informal exchange of views on the report of the South Commission		
Thursday, 4 July	No meeting*		
Friday, 5 July	No meeting*		

* The Special High-level Meeting of the Council will be held during this time.

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
Week of 8-12 July			
Monday, 8 July			
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 2: General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments General discussion		Election of Vice-Chairmen Organization of work Item 12: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows" and the comments of the Secretary-General and of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon. Report of the Secretary-General on the system-wide review on coordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees Item 15: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Item 16: Disaster reduction and relief: (c) Disaster relief coordination Item 17: Special economic and humanitarian assistance

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
3 p.m.		Election of Vice-Chairman Organization of work Item 8: Development and international economic cooperation (a) Trade and development (b) Food and agriculture Introduction and general discussion	Item 18: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Introductory statements
6 p.m.	Closure of list of speakers on item 2	Closure of list of speakers on items 8 (a) and (b)	
Tuesday, 9 July			
10 a.m.	Item 2: General discussion (continued) Statements by the executive secretaries of the regional commissions		Item 12: (2 reports) Item 15: Item 16 (c): Item 17: Item 18: General discussion (continued)

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
3 p.m.	Item 2: General discussion (continued)	Item 8: General discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) (continued)	
6 p.m.			Closure of list of speakers on items 12 (2 reports), 15, 16 (c), 17 and 18
Wednesday, 10 July			
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 2: General discussion (continued)		
10 a.m.			Item 12: (2 reports) Item 15: Item 16 (c): Item 17: Item 18: General discussion (continued)
3 p.m.		Item 8: General discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) (concluded)	

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
Thursday, 11 July			
10 a.m.	Item 2: General discussion (concluded)		Item 12: (2 reports) Item 15: Item 16 (c): Item 17: Item 18:
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of draft proposals under sub-items 8 (a) and (b)	General discussion (concluded)
3 p.m.	Item 2: Informal exchange of views with heads of agencies following general discussion	Item 7: Regional cooperation Introduction and general discussion	
6 p m.		Closure of list of speakers on item 7	
Friday, 12 July			
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Informal exchange of views on the economic, social and environmental consequences of the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and its short-, medium- and long-term implications		
1 p.m.			Deadline for submission of draft proposals under items 12 (2 reports), 15, 16 (c), 17 and 18

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	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
3 p.m.		Introduction of draft proposals submitted under sub-items 8 (a) and (b) Item 7: Introduction and general discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m.	Closure of list of speakers on item 3		
Week of 15-19 July			
Monday, 15 July			
10 a.m.	Item 3: Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council Introduction and general discussion	Item 8: Development and international economic cooperation: (e) Natural resources (f) Population (g) Statistics General discussion	Item 12: Coordination questions Item 14: Programme and related questions Introduction and general discussion
1 p.m.	Closure of list of speakers on item 6	Closure of list of speakers on items 8 (e), (f) and (g) Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 7	Closure of list of speakers on items 12 and 14

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
3 p.m.	Item 6: International cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl Introduction and general discussion	Item 8: General discussion on sub-items (e), (f) and (g) (concluded)	Item 12: General discussion (continued) Item 14: General discussion (continued) Introduction of draft proposals submitted under items 12 (2 reports), 15, 16 (c), 17 and 18
6 p.m.	Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 2 Closure of list of speakers on item 4		
Tuesday, 16 July			
10 a.m.	Item 4: Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries Introduction and general discussion	Introduction of draft proposals submitted under item 7 Item 8: Development and international economic cooperation: (h) Human settlements (i) Environment (j) Desertification and drought Introduction and general discussion	Item 12: General discussion (continued) Item 14: General discussion (continued)

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
1 p.m.	Deadline for submission of draft proposals under items 3 and 6 Closure of list of speakers on item 5	Closure of list of speakers on items 8 (h), (i) and (j) Deadline for submission of draft proposals submitted under sub-items 8 (e), (f) and (g)	
3 p.m.	Item 5: Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories General discussion	Item 8: General discussion on sub-items (h), (i) and (j) (concluded)	Item 12: General discussion (concluded) Item 14: General discussion (concluded)
Wednesday, 17 July			
10 a.m.	Item 5: General discussion (concluded) Introduction of draft proposals under items 2, 3 and 6	Introduction of draft proposals submitted under sub-items 8 (e), (f) and (g) Item 8: Development and international economic cooperation: (k) Transport of dangerous goods Introduction and general discussion	Item 11: Operational activities for development Introduction and general discussion
1 p.m.	Deadline for submission of draft proposals under items 4 and 5	Deadline for submission of draft proposals under sub-items 8 (h), (i) and (j)	Closure of list of speakers on item 11

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
3 p.m.	Informal consultations on plenary items	Item 8: Development and international economic cooperation: (l) Effective mobilization and integration of women in development Introduction and general discussion	Item 11: General discussion (continued)
Thursday, 18 July			
10 a.m.	Introduction of draft proposals under items 4 and 5, followed by informal consultations on plenary items	Introduction of draft proposals submitted under sub-items 8 (h), (i) and (j) Item 8: Development and international economic cooperation: (m) World Decade for Cultural Development Introduction and general discussion Item 9: Industrial development cooperation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries Introduction and general discussion	Item 11: General discussion (concluded) Action on draft proposals submitted under items 12 (2 reports), 15, 16 (c), 17 and 18

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
1 p.m.		Closure of list of speakers on item 9 Deadline for submission of draft proposals under sub-items 8 (k) and (l)	
3 p.m.	Informal consultations on plenary items	Item 9: General discussion (concluded) Item 10: International cooperation in the field of informatics Introduction and general discussion	Informal consultations Deadline for submission of draft proposals under items 12 and 14
Friday, 19 July			
10 a.m.	Informal consultations on plenary items	Introduction of draft proposals submitted under sub-items 8 (k) and (l) Item 8: Development and international economic cooperation (c) Science and technology for development (d) Transnational corporations General discussion	Item 13: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations Introduction and general discussion

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
1 p.m.		Closure of list of speakers on sub-items 8 (c) and (d) Deadline for submission of draft proposals under sub-items 8 (m), and items 9 and 10	
3 p.m.		Item 8: General discussion on sub-items (c) and (d) (concluded)	Introduction of draft proposals submitted under items 12 and 14 Item 16: Disaster reduction and relief: (a) Fight against the screw-worm infestation (b) International strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa Introduction and general discussion Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 11

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
Week of 22-26 July			
Monday, 22 July			
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Informal consultations on plenary items		
10 a.m.		Introduction of draft proposals submitted under sub-item 8 (m) and items 9 and 10 Item 7: Action on draft proposals Item 8: Action on draft proposals submitted under sub-items (a) and (b)	Informal consultations
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of draft proposals under sub-items 8 (c) and (d)	Deadline for submission of draft proposals under items 13 and 16 (a) and (b)
3 p.m.		Item 8: Action on draft proposals submitted under sub-items (e) to (j)	Introduction of draft proposals submitted under item 11, followed by informal consultations

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
Tuesday, 23 July			
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Informal consultations on plenary items		
10 a.m.		Introduction of draft proposals submitted under sub-items 8 (c) and (d) Item 8: Action on draft proposals submitted under sub-items (k), (l) and (m) Item 9: Action on draft proposals	Introduction of draft proposals submitted under items 13 and 16 (a) and (b), followed by informal consultations
3 p.m.		Informal consultations	Action on draft proposals submitted under items 12 and 14
Wednesday, 24 July			
10 a.m.	No meeting	Item 10: Action on draft proposals Item 8: Action on draft proposals submitted under sub-items (c) and (d)	Action on draft proposals submitted under items 11, 13 and 16 (a) and (b) Conclusion of the work of the Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
3 p.m.	No meeting	Conclusion of the work of the First (Economic) Committee	

	Plenary	First (Economic) Committee	Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee
Thursday, 25 July			
10 a.m.	Action on draft proposals submitted under items 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6		
3 p.m.	No meeting		
Friday, 26 July			
10 a.m.	Consideration of reports of the sessional committees		
3 p.m.	Consideration of remaining reports of the sessional committees Conclusion of the work of the second regular session of 1991		

III. ANNOTATIONS 3/

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

20. At its first regular session of 1991, the Council approved the provisional agenda for its second regular session (decision 1991/270).

21. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, should any proposals be submitted for the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda, they will be circulated as soon as they are received, and a supplementary list of items will be issued as an addendum to the provisional agenda.

Economic, social and environmental consequences of the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and its short-, medium- and long-term implications

22. At its organizational session for 1991, the Council decided to hold at its second regular session, an informal exchange of views on the economic, social and environmental consequences of the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and its short-, medium- and long-term implications, to request the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to provide appropriate documentation for the discussion of that question, and to invite the executive heads of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to participate in the discussion (decision 1991/211).

Documentation

Chapter on the subject in the World Economic Survey, 1991 (E/1991/75, chap. II)

Briefing note on the economic, social and environmental consequences of the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and its short-, medium- and long-term implications

Report of the South Commission

23. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the Council, to convene, during the second regular session of 1991 of the Council, a meeting devoted to an informal exchange of views on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the South Commission, in particular in its overview and summary, invited Governments and the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to submit their views on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report for consideration at

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3/ More detailed information is contained in the proposed basic programme of work of the Council (E/1991/1).

that meeting of the Council, and invited the President of the Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the outcome of the informal exchange of views (resolution 45/195).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the views of the bodies of the United Nations system and of Governments (E/1991/90)

Status of documentation

24. Attention is drawn to Council resolution 1989/114, section II, relating to documentation, in which the Council decided that the President of the Council and other members of the Bureau should continually monitor, with the assistance of the Secretariat, the status of the preparation of documentation, taking into account relevant decisions on documentation, and should propose appropriate measures to the Council, after having held informal meetings to be convened at least eight weeks before each session of the Council, bearing in mind the need to adhere to rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Council and other relevant rules and regulations. Consultations by the Council on the state of preparation of documentation for the second regular session took place on Friday, 31 May, at Headquarters.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session (E/1991/L.20, sect. III)

Item 2. General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments

25. The Council will hold a general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments, with a view to formulating and elaborating action-oriented recommendations.

26. As a basis for the general discussion, the Council will have before it the World Economic Survey, 1991. The Survey contains nine chapters. Chapter I presents an overview of major developments and issues in the world economy in 1990 and early 1991. Chapter II examines trends in world output in 1990, focusing on regional experience, issues and problems, including those arising from the Gulf conflict and political developments, and provides a forecast of short-term growth prospects for the world economy. Chapter III deals with recent major developments in international trade and the trading system. Issues of international finance and transfer of resources among countries are discussed in chapter IV. Chapter V examines the major developments in international energy markets in 1990. Chapter VI discusses the implications of the changes currently taking place in Eastern Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for economic relations among East, West and South. Chapter VII examines international policy for reducing the external debt of the developing countries. Aspects of the reduction of military expenditure in the light of the end of the cold war are discussed in

chapter VIII. The special issues discussed in chapter IX are the relationship between poverty and the socio-economic attainment of women, environmental accounting and recent demographic trends. The statistical annex to the Survey has been revised and expanded.

27. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council decided to focus, at its second regular session of 1991, in its general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments, on the question of strengthening multilateral cooperation in international economic affairs, to be considered on the basis of a report to be prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with Council resolution 1989/111 (decision 1990/263).

28. The Committee for Development Planning will report on the work of its twenty-seventh session (Headquarters, 22-26 April 1991) (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1625 (LI)). The report of the Committee will include a discussion of the economic and political reforms under way in the countries of Eastern Europe and in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the consequences thereof not only for their own domestic economic performance, but also for the world economy and the developing countries. Particular emphasis will be placed on the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic cooperation. The report will also address recent developments in international financial cooperation for development and the need to reinforce effective policies where growth in external assistance has not been satisfactory. In that context, issues related to the institutional arrangements for aid and the policies of international financial institutions will be discussed, as will the effectiveness of the programmes of structural reform supported by the international financial institutions. The Committee is expected to submit to the Council for consideration its findings on the list of the least developed countries based on substantially revised criteria for the identification of those countries, and on the inclusion of Namibia in that list, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/198.

29. The Council will also have before it the summaries of the surveys of regional economic and social conditions prepared by the regional commissions, highlighting the main problems and prospects of those regions.

30. Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries. Studies by the Secretary-General on the question were initiated by the General Assembly in resolution 335 (XXIX) and have been considered regularly by the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. At its second regular session of 1987, the Council invited the Secretary-General to continue to study the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries and to submit an updated report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, taking into account the different efforts made and the experience gained by the developing countries in improving the efficiency of the public sector and, inter alia, paying special attention to the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 34/137 (resolution 1987/92).

Documentation

World Economic Survey, 1991 (E/1991/75)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening multilateral cooperation in international economic affairs (E/1991/72)

Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-seventh session (E/1991/32, Supp. No. 11)

Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1990 (E/1991/56)

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions of Asia and the Pacific, 1990 (E/1991/45)

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1989-1990 (E/1991/70)

Summary of the economic survey of Europe in 1990-1991 (E/1991/64)

Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the ESCWA region in 1990 (E/1991/92)

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries (A/46/132-E/1991/58)

Item 3. Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council

31. At its second regular session of 1990, the Economic and Social Council stressed the need for the full and speedy implementation of the provisions of its resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114, decided to review the implementation of the measures agreed upon for the revitalization of the Council, pursuant to its responsibilities for promoting international economic and social cooperation and in accordance with the relevant articles of the Charter, at its second regular session of 1992, and invited the President of the Council to undertake informal consultations, open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations, on all relevant issues pertaining to the review of the implementation of the measures agreed upon for the revitalization of the Council, and to submit an interim report thereon to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 (resolution 1990/69). The President will report orally to the Council on the matter.

32. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in particular to section III of the annex thereto relating to measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the Council.

Item 4. Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries

33. At its second regular session of 1990, the Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution S-18/3, containing the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and fully convinced of the need to implement the policies and commitments expressed in the Declaration, recommended to the governing bodies of the organs and organizations of the United Nations system that they include in their agendas the question of the implementation of the Declaration and invited them to report to the Council, at its second regular session of 1991, on steps taken by them and by Governments within their respective spheres of competence, with a view to ensuring the implementation of the Declaration (resolution 1990/54).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, by the organs and organizations of the United Nations system and by Governments (E/1991/96)

Item 5. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

34. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council, recalling General Assembly decision 40/432 and Council resolution 1989/86, expressed concern that the report requested by the Council in resolution 1989/86 had not been presented and requested the Secretary-General to prepare the report on Israeli land and water policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, taking into account Israeli settlement practices, and to submit that report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council (resolution 1990/53).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on Israeli land and water policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

Item 6. International cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl

35. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly, noting with satisfaction Council resolution 1990/50 on international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, requested the organs, specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, in considering possible technical and other special

assistance for the areas most affected, particularly in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, to bear in mind the unprecedented nature of the radiological and environmental disaster and of the emergency situation in those areas resulting from the long-term effects of man-made radiation on present and future generations, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 45/190).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolution 45/190 (A/46/ -E/1991/76)

Letter dated 6 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/82-E/1991/14)

Letter dated 19 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations (A/46/91-E/1991/17)

Item 7. Regional cooperation

36. The Secretary-General, in his annual report on regional cooperation, in addition to reporting on the meetings of the executive secretaries, highlights developments in each region and draws the Council's attention to specific issues requiring its consideration. The Council's attention is also drawn to decisions or recommendations of the commissions that statutorily require approval by the Council. A section of the report will deal with the question of strengthening the role of the regional commissions to promote subregional, regional and interregional cooperation (decision 1991/202 F).

37. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested each regional commission, within existing resources, to contribute to the prevention of the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes by monitoring and making regional assessments of the illegal traffic and its environmental and health implications, on a continuing basis in each region, and requested the Council to submit recommendations to the Assembly on the findings and conclusions of the regional commissions, in accordance with the consideration of environmental issues (resolution 44/226, sect. I).

38. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council decided to support fully the implementation by participating African States of the project proposal on interregional cooperation for the facilitation of international trade, prepared jointly by the regional commissions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with Council resolution 1989/118, and requested the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on regional cooperation a report on the progress made in the implementation

of the resolution, as well as on the further consideration of Council resolution 1989/118 by the regional commissions for Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Western Asia (resolution 1990/74).

39. Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar. At its second regular session of 1989, the Council, having considered the conclusions contained in the interim report prepared in compliance with Council resolution 1987/69 by the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe (E/1989/58), requested the Executive Secretaries of the two Commissions to submit to the Council, at its second regular session of 1991, an interim report on the project (resolution 1989/119).

40. Under this item, the attention of the Council is drawn to the summaries of the surveys of economic and social conditions in the five regions prepared by the regional commissions, which are to be considered under item 2.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (E/1991/97)

Note by the Secretary-General on a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar (E/1991/67)

Letter dated 16 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/1991/59)

Item 8. Development and international economic cooperation

(a) Trade and development

41. The Council will consider the report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its thirty-seventh session (Geneva, 11-22 March 1991) and transmit directly to the General Assembly the report of the Board on the first part of its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 23 September-4 October 1991) (decision 1991/202 I).

42. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed Council resolution 1990/57, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council at its second regular session of 1991, on institutional developments related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade, and requested the Secretary-General, in preparing that report, to solicit the views of all Governments and the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system on the matter (resolution 45/201).

Documentation

Report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its thirty-seventh session (A/46/15, part one, Supp. No. 15)

Report of the Secretary-General on institutional developments related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade

(b) Food and agriculture

43. The Council will review in depth the report of the World Food Council on its seventeenth session and submit recommendations thereon to the General Assembly for consideration and action (decision 1991/202 G). 4/

44. The attention of the Council is drawn to the discussion, under item 11 (Operational activities for development), of General Assembly resolution 45/218 on the governance of the World Food Programme.

45. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the World Food Council, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to submit to the Council, at its second regular session of 1991, an updated comprehensive report on trends in the international market for agricultural and tropical products and developments on the liberalization of international trade in agricultural and tropical products, taking into account the share of developing countries in such trade and the possible adverse short-term effects on net food importing developing countries, and on the follow-up to the section on agriculture of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (resolution 45/207).

Documentation

Report of the World Food Council on its seventeenth session

Report of the Secretary-General on trends in the international market for agricultural and tropical products and developments on the liberalization of international trade in agricultural and tropical products (E/1991/89)

(c) Science and technology for development

46. The Council will review the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session (Headquarters, 22 April-3 May 1991). In doing so, the Council will not consider draft

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4/ The report of the World Food Council will not be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

proposals, except for specific recommendations contained therein that require action by the Council and proposals on matters relating to the coordination aspects of the work of the Committee (decision 1991/202 H). 5/

(d) Transnational corporations

47. The Council will consider the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its seventeenth session (Headquarters, 10-19 April and 7, 10 and 15 May 1991) and take action on the recommendations contained therein.

48. The report of the Commission includes the recommendations of the Commission on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and follow-up to the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons established to conduct the public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa (Ccuncil resolution 1986/1). In that resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council on the implementation of the resolution. In resolution 1990/70, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare studies on the level and form of operation by transnational corporations in South Africa and an updated study on the responsibilities of home countries with respect to the transnational corporations operating in South Africa in violation of relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, and to report annually to the Commission, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council on the implementation of the resolution.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its seventeenth session (E/1991/31, Supp. No. 10)

(e) Natural resources

49. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its twelfth session (Headquarters, 25 March-4 April 1991) and take action on the recommendations contained therein.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its twelfth session (E/1991/29, Supp. No. 9)

5/ The report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development will be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

(f) Population

50. The Council will consider the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-sixth session (Headquarters, 27 February-8 March 1991) (Council resolution 150 (VII)) and take action on the recommendations contained therein.

51. In accordance with Council resolutions 1985/4 and 1987/72, the Commission reviewed the reports of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of population and on the monitoring of multilateral population assistance and transmitted its views thereon to the Council.

52. Convening of an international meeting on population in 1994. At its second regular session of 1989, the Council decided, in principle, to convene in 1994, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international meeting on population that would bring together high-level governmental authorities and population experts and be open to all States as full participants, the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, designated the Population Commission as the preparatory committee for the international meeting on population, requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary organizational arrangements for the preparation of the international meeting on population and to submit to the Council, through the Population Commission at its twenty-sixth session, a detailed report on the state of the preparations for the meeting, and requested him to take appropriate measures to obtain resources for the international meeting and to report on the results obtained to the Council, through the Population Commission at its twenty-sixth session, in 1991 (resolution 1989/91). At its second regular session of 1990, the Council adopted decision 1990/262 on the question. The Population Commission acting as the Preparatory Committee for the international meeting has recommended that it be called the "International Conference on Population and Development".

53. The Council will also consider the relevant parts of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme dealing with the United Nations Population Fund.

Documentation

Report of the Population Commission on its twenty-sixth session (E/1991/27, Supp. No. 7)

Report of the Population Commission acting as the Preparatory Committee for the international meeting on population, 1994

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for a 1994 international meeting on population (E/1991/5)

Relevant parts of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Population Fund (E/1991/34, Supp. No. 13)

(g) Statistics

54. In decision 1991/213, the Council decided to consider at its second regular session of 1991, as a sub-item under the item entitled "Development and international economic cooperation", the question of statistics.

55. The Council will consider the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-sixth session (Headquarters, 4-13 February 1991) and take action on the recommendations contained therein (resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) and 1566 (L)).

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-sixth session (E/1991/25, Supp. No. 5)

(h) Human settlements

56. The Council will review the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its thirteenth session (Harare, 29 April-8 May 1991), which will include the report of the Commission on the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. 6/ In reviewing the report of the Commission on its thirteenth session, the Council will not consider draft proposals, except for specific recommendations contained therein that require action by the Council and proposals on matters relating to the coordination aspects of the work of the Commission (decision 1991/202 H).

57. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. At its forty-second session, the Assembly requested the Commission to formulate a global strategy for shelter to the year 2000 for submission, through the Council, to the Assembly at its forty-third session (resolution 42/191). At that session, the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (A/43/8/Add.1), decided to review and clarify the Strategy on a biennial basis and requested the Commission, as the body designated to coordinate the implementation of the Strategy, to report biennially to the Assembly on the progress made in its implementation (resolution 43/181).

58. Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to make available to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development from the United Nations regular budget the extra funds needed to prepare the comprehensive study on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory, as had been requested by the Trade and Development Board in its resolution 239 (XXIII), and also requested him to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution (resolution 44/174).

6/ The report of the Commission on Human Settlements will be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its thirteenth session, including the report of the Commission on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (A/46/8 and Add.1, Supps. Nos. 8 and 8A)

Report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories

(j) Environment

59. The Council will review the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on its sixteenth session (Nairobi, 20-31 May 1991). 7/ In doing so, the Council will not consider draft proposals, except for specific recommendations contained therein that require action by the Council and proposals on matters relating to the coordination aspects of the work of the Governing Council (decision 1991/202 H). 8/

60. The report of the Governing Council is expected to include its views on international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergencies, pursuant to the request of the Assembly in its resolution 44/224.

61. Control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Executive Director of UNEP, in accordance with the resolutions adopted at the Basel Conference, to establish an ad hoc working group to develop elements that might be included in a protocol on liability and compensation for damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes, and requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Executive Director of UNEP, to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the progress achieved in the implementation of the provisions of the Basel Convention and of the resolution (resolution 44/226, sect. III).

62. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187. In its resolution 42/186, the General Assembly adopted the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, contained in the annex to that resolution, as a broad framework to guide national action and international cooperation on policies and programmes aimed at achieving environmentally sound development, and specifically as a guide to the preparation of further system-wide

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7/ The report of the Governing Council of UNEP will be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

8/ The Council's attention is drawn to the annotations to the question entitled "Desertification and drought" (item 8 (j)).

medium-term environment programmes and the medium-term programmes of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in the light of UNEP Governing Council decision 14/13, and requested the governing bodies of relevant United Nations organizations to report regularly to the Assembly on the progress made in achieving the objectives of environmentally sound and sustainable development in line with paragraph 114 of the Environmental Perspective. In its resolution 42/187, the Assembly, noting that the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond had taken account of the main recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, welcomed the report of the Commission, entitled "Our Common Future" (A/42/427, annex), and requested the Secretary-General to review and coordinate on a regular basis the efforts of all the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to pursue sustainable development, and to report thereon to the Assembly through the Governing Council and the Council. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 (A/44/350), and requested the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Governing Council of UNEP and the Economic and Social Council, a progress report on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 44/227).

63. Possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite UNEP, the World Meteorological Organization and, through them, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to take account in their work of the particular situation of islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, by undertaking further scientific studies and by seeking ways to address the problems of sea-level rise, inter alia, by providing expertise, as requested, in accordance with their specific mandates for improved management of coastal zones, recommended that the vulnerability of affected countries and their marine ecosystems to sea-level rise be considered during discussions of a draft framework convention on climate, and within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and during its preparatory process, and requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council of UNEP (resolution 44/206).

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its sixteenth session (A/46/25, Supp. No. 25)

Report of the Secretary-General on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal (A/46/ -E/1991/77)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227 (A/46/138-E/1991/52)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas (A/46/156-E/1991/54)

(j) Desertification and drought 9/

64. Countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa. The General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, appealed urgently to the international community to continue to support the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification in the countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Economic Community for West African States, in the Maghreb countries, in Egypt and in the Sudan (COMIDES) and the other competent organizations, and endorsed Council resolution 1989/103, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the situation in countries stricken by desertification and drought and to prepare, as necessary, specific and coordinated proposals for action (decision 44/437).

65. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. Also at its forty-fourth session, the Assembly invited the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to accord high priority to desertification control and to deploy all means necessary, including financial, scientific and technological resources, to halt and reverse the process of desertification with a view to preserving the ecological balance of the planet, and requested the Secretary-General, together with the Executive Director of UNEP, to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the various provisions of the resolution, and to ensure that it was submitted, immediately after publication, to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference (resolution 44/172 A).

66. Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region. The Secretary-General reports regularly to the General Assembly, through the Governing Council of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council, on the activities of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, which has been designated the focal point for coordinating United Nations efforts to assist the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in carrying out their recovery and rehabilitation programme (Council resolution 1978/37 and Assembly resolution 40/209).

67. Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda. The Secretary-General apprises the Council annually, at its second regular session, of the status of this question (Council resolution 1983/46).

9/ This question will be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolutions on the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (A/46/157-E/1991/55)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region

(k) Transport of dangerous goods

68. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which held its sixteenth session at Geneva from 3 to 12 December 1990. The Committee was established in pursuance of Council resolution 645 G (XXIII). The Secretary-General reports biennially to the Council on the work of the Committee (Council resolution 1488 (XLVIII)).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1991/68)

(l) Effective mobilization and integration of women in development

69. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to include in his 1991 report on operational activities for development of the United Nations system a separate chapter on United Nations efforts to integrate women in development (resolution 44/171).

70. The Council will also have before it the relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-fifth session.

71. The attention of the Council is drawn to the section of the World Economic Survey, 1991, which provides information on the status of women and their contribution to economic development.

Documentation

Relevant section of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation on operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-fifth session (E/1991/28, Supp. No. 8)

(m) World Decade for Cultural Development

72. In its resolution 41/187, the General Assembly proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the mid-term review of the Decade (A/45/277-E/1990/77 and Add.1), invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to include specific proposals, taking into account the views of Governments, on the modalities of a mid-term review in the second biennial report on progress in the implementation of the Decade, to be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, and decided to include, on a biennial basis in its agenda for subsequent sessions, a sub-item entitled "World Decade for Cultural Development" under the item entitled "Development and international economic cooperation" (resolution 45/189).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on progress in the implementation of the World Decade for Cultural Development (A/46/ -E/1991/66)

Item 9. Industrial development cooperation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries

73. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly recommended that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in close cooperation with the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, make recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, with a view to strengthening effectively industrial development cooperation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries (resolution 45/196).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the recommendations of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on the strengthening of industrial development cooperation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries

Item 10. International cooperation in the field of informatics

74. The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on all aspects of international cooperation in the field of informatics and the impact of informatics on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, including concrete recommendations for intensifying and strengthening international cooperation in that field in the context of the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries (resolution 1990/58).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics

Item 11. Operational activities for development

75. The Council will have before it the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation on the operational activities of the United Nations system, as well as the report of the Director-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, on a consolidated system-wide basis.

76. The first-mentioned report of the Director-General discusses a number of policy and management issues affecting the coherence and functioning of system-wide activities in the light of the relevant decisions of the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system.

77. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/211 on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Director-General to conduct an independent study aimed at developing, among other possible ways to improve the United Nations system's coordination at the country level, the concept of a document containing the United Nations system's integrated operational response, at the country level, to the national programme framework of the recipient Government for operational activities for development, which would give greater coherence to existing programming instruments, and to submit that study to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, including an analysis containing his views on the impact of that approach, in particular on the role of the resident coordinator, on the leadership role of the United Nations Development Programme and on the relationship and relevance of such an approach vis-à-vis the existing coordinating mechanisms of the United Nations system at the country level, such as National Technical Cooperation Assessment and Programmes and round tables, as well as consultative groups, and possible ways for the implementation of the relevant elements contained therein; to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990 a proposed three-year schedule for the implementation of the resolution by all the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and to draw attention to recommendations on which he considered additional guidance was required, particularly those facilitating the full implementation of that resolution, and make available the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation containing his recommendations for the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development (A/44/324-E/1989/106/Add.3); and to submit, for the next three years, annual reports on the implementation of the resolution, on a consolidated system-wide basis, to the Council at its second regular session. The Assembly also reaffirmed the provision contained in its resolution 32/197 concerning the

representation of developing countries at the executive management and other central decision-making levels of secretariat structures in the area of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and requested the Director-General to include, in his annual report to the Council, a section on the implementation of that provision.

78. In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon the governing bodies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to make the adjustments required to implement the relevant provisions of the resolution and to prepare information on the measures taken, to be included, starting in 1991, in the annual reports of the Director-General submitted through the Council to the Assembly.

79. The three-year schedule proposed by the Director-General for the implementation of resolution 44/211 is contained in document A/45/273-E/1990/85 and Corr.1, annex.

80. The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme will report on the work of its thirty-eighth session (Headquarters, 3-28 June 1991), as well as on its organizational meeting and special session (Headquarters, 19-22 February 1991) (Assembly resolution 2029 (XX)).

81. It is expected that the Governing Council will report, inter alia, on its consideration of the following funds and programmes:

(a) Technical cooperation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General. 10/ The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme reports annually to the Economic and Social Council on the technical cooperation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General (Assembly resolution 2029 (XX));

(b) United Nations Capital Development Fund. 10/ The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme reports regularly to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council on the activities of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (Assembly resolutions 2186 (XXI) and 2321 (XXII));

(c) United Nations Volunteers programme. 10/ The Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme report regularly on the United Nations Volunteers programme, through the Governing Council of the Programme and the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly (Assembly resolution 33/84);

(d) United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration. The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme submits a report on the progress and operation of the Fund to the Economic and Social Council every two years (Council resolution 1762 (LIV) and Assembly resolution 36/200).

10/ This question will be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

82. High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. 10/ The Committee is entrusted with the overall intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries within the United Nations system. It reports to the General Assembly through the Governing Council of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (Assembly resolution 33/134). The Committee held its seventh session at Headquarters from 28 to 31 May and on 6 June 1991.

83. Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. The Committee submits an annual report to the Council (Assembly resolution 3404 (XXX)). The Committee will adopt its sixteenth annual report, covering the year 1990, at its thirty-first session, to be held in Rome from 20 to 25 May 1991. The Council will also have before it the report of the Committee on its first special session, held on 18 March 1991.

84. At its second regular session of 1990, the Economic and Social Council welcomed the decision of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to establish a subcommittee of the whole of the Committee to review the governance of the World Food Programme and the relationships between the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme and requested the Committee to report to the Council in 1991 on its consideration of the important review carried out by the subcommittee (resolution 1990/79).

85. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to participate fully in the review of governance arrangements of the World Food Programme and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the participation of the United Nations in the review of the governance arrangements for the World Food Programme (resolution 45/218).

86. United Nations Children's Fund. The Executive Board of UNICEF reports annually to the Council (Assembly resolution 802 (VIII)). 11/ Its annual session was held at Headquarters from 22 April to 3 May 1991.

Documentation

Report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation on the operational activities of the United Nations system (A/46/206-E/1991/93 and Add.1-3)

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (E/1991/34, Supp. No. 13)

11/ This question will not be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its seventh session

Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes on its first special session (E/1991/69)

Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes on its thirty-first session

Report of the Secretary-General on the participation of the United Nations in the review of the governance arrangements of the World Food Programme

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/1991/33, Supp. No. 12)

Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Practices and procedures aimed at a more equitable geographical distribution of sources of procurement for technical cooperation projects" and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/44/646 and A/45/648)

Item 12. Coordination questions

Reports of CPC and ACC

87. The Council will have before it the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) on its thirty-first session (Headquarters, 13 May-12 June 1991), the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) for 1990, as well as the report of ACC on the Register of Development Activities of the United Nations system. The report of CPC will include the Committee's views on its consideration of the report of ACC. Other issues of system-wide scope dealt with by ACC and CPC will be considered under the relevant agenda items.

88. In addition to a survey of its activities and those of its subsidiary machinery in 1990, submitted pursuant to Council resolution 13 (III), the annual overview report of ACC contains, in an addendum, information on the programmes and resources of the organizations of the United Nations system for the biennium 1990-1991 in response to requests for more comprehensive and transparent information on such activities. It is the intention of ACC to submit such information on a biennial basis.

89. Review of the implementation of Council resolution 1988/64 on the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC. In resolution 1988/64, the Council decided that, in future, the Joint Meetings should be held in New York in conjunction with the autumn session of ACC, in order to facilitate the participation of the members

of CPC at a high level, as well as the participation of the executive heads of the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes, decided also that appropriate measures for effective intergovernmental and intersecretariat follow-up of the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meetings should be reported, through CPC, to the Council at its second regular session in the following year, and decided further to review the implementation of the resolution at its second regular session of 1991 in the context of the study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields.

90. It will be recalled that the Council, at its resumed second regular session of 1990, took note of the report of the Chairmen of CPC and ACC on the twenty-fifth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1990/123), held at Headquarters on 19 and 25-26 October 1990 (decision 1990/290).

91. In that report it was stated that efforts should be made to improve the annual overview report of ACC by making it more analytical and forward-looking, and that ACC should highlight problems of coordination requiring urgent attention and action by Governments, as well as proposals on courses of action to be taken, agencies responsible and resources needed.

92. International Literacy Year. At its forty-second session, the General Assembly proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year (resolution 42/104). At its forty-fourth session, the Assembly, inter alia, invited Governments that had not yet done so to establish a programme of measures for enhancing literacy and functional literacy for the period up to the year 2000 along the lines of the Plan of Action for the Eradication of Illiteracy by the Year 2000 of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO to give wide publicity to the activities and measures to be undertaken during the Year, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the programme for International Literacy Year (resolution 44/127).

93. System-wide coordination of activities to advance the status of women and to integrate women in development. At its second regular session of 1989, the Council, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, to report to CPC and the Council, biennially in odd-numbered years beginning in 1991, on the extent to which the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development was incorporated into the programmes and programme budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system (resolution 1989/105).

94. Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in view of the serious implications of the AIDS pandemic for development in general in many developing countries, to intensify his efforts, in collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the heads of the

World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund and all other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to mobilize the cumulative experience of the United Nations system in the strategic planning of multi-sectoral projects and the raising of funds in support of those countries requesting assistance, and also requested the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in close collaboration with the other organizations of the United Nations system and without prejudice to ongoing priorities and programmes, to continue to advance the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 45/187).

95. Refugees, displaced persons and returnees. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council requested the Secretary-General to initiate a United Nations system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of various organizations in the coordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees, and the full spectrum of their needs, in supporting the efforts of the affected countries, and, on the basis of the system-wide review and within existing resources, to recommend ways of maximizing cooperation and coordination among the various organizations of the United Nations system in order to ensure an effective response by the United Nations system to the problems of refugees, displaced persons and returnees, keeping in mind the mandates of the United Nations organizations concerned, and to report on the results of the system-wide review and on the recommendations emanating therefrom to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 (resolution 1990/78).

96. The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolutions 45/140 A and B entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" and 45/153 entitled "Human rights and mass exoduses".

Documentation

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-first session (A/46/16, Supp. No. 16)

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1990 (E/1991/42 and Add.1 and 2)

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the Register of Development Activities of the United Nations System (E/1991/44)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for International Literacy Year

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development (E/1991/16 and Corr.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (A/46/171-E/1991/61)

Report of the Secretary-General on the system-wide review on coordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees 12/

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit brought to the attention of the Council:

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows" and the comments of the Secretary-General and of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/45/649 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and A/46/134, respectively) 12/

Item 13. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

97. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid and to report thereon to the Council; it requested the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 (resolution 1990/60). At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Council to continue, as appropriate, to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly (resolution 45/18).

98. Assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movement by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. The Council reviews annually, in consultation with the Special Committee against Apartheid, the assistance provided by agencies and institutions of the United Nations system in the context of General Assembly resolution 33/183 K.

12/ These reports will be considered in conjunction with the general discussion of items 15 to 18 in the Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee.

99. Assistance to the Palestinian people. At its sixty-third session, in 1977, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it annual reports on the question of assistance to the Palestinian people (resolution 2100 (LXIII)).

100. The Council, at its second regular session of 1990, and the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, adopted resolutions concerning assistance to the Palestinian people and respectively requested the Secretary-General to report in full to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolutions on this question (Council resolution 1990/59 and Assembly resolution 45/183).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people

Item 14. Programme and related questions

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

101. In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Secretary-General will circulate the sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 covering activities in the economic, social and related fields. The Council will consider the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the matter, with a view to submitting its own recommendations thereon to the General Assembly (Council resolution 1988/77). The attention of the Council is drawn to section II of General Assembly resolution 41/213, concerning the planning, programming and budgeting process, as well as Assembly resolutions 42/211, 43/214, 44/200 and 45/255.

Documentation

Relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (A/46/6, fascicles)

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-first session (A/46/16, Supp. No. 16)

(b) Calendar of conferences

102. The Council will be required to draw up its calendar of conferences and meetings for 1992 and 1993 (Council decision 52 (LVII)). The provisional calendar that will be before the Council has been prepared taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991, adopted at its resumed forty-fifth session, on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. In the context of its consideration of the calendar, the Council may wish to consider once more the question of the discontinuance of summary records for some of its subsidiary bodies and for its sessional committees (see Council decision 1989/174).

Documentation

Provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 1992 and 1993 (E/1991/L.25)

Item 15. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

103. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, beginning on 1 January 1990. The Assembly adopted the International Framework of Action for the Decade, in which, inter alia, the Secretary-General was requested to report biennially to the General Assembly, through the Council, on the activities of the Decade (resolution 44/236).

104. At its forty-fifth session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the progress in the implementation of the programmes and activities of the Decade, including the identification of the constraints in that regard, with appropriate attention to the status of existing international protocols and conventions for mutual assistance in cases of disaster, in accordance with paragraph 4 of its resolution 44/236 (resolution 45/185).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Item 16. Disaster reduction and relief

(a) Fight against the screw-worm infestation

105. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council urged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to strengthen its coordination mechanisms and its technical and field operation support to countries for an eradication campaign aimed at eliminating the screw-worm from North Africa, the Mediterranean parts of Europe and the Near East, through use of the Sterile Insect Technique, and invited the Director-General of FAO to

submit to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 an up-to-date report on the screw-worm infestation and efforts undertaken to eradicate it (resolution 1990/61).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the screw-worm infestation and efforts undertaken to eradicate it (E/1991/62)

(b) International strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa

106. Also at its second regular session of 1990, the Council requested FAO, over the short and medium term, to reinforce existing structures and current technologies, including early warning systems such as ARTEMIS (Africa Real Time Environmental Monitoring using Imaging Satellites), which contribute to preventive control, and requested the Director-General of FAO to submit to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 an up-to-date report on the implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa (resolution 1990/62).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the implementation of the international strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa (E/1991/63)

(c) Disaster relief coordination

107. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly endorsed Council resolution 1990/63 concerning the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), requested the Secretary-General to make proposals to the Council at its second regular session of 1991 for the strengthening of the capacity of UNDRO to fulfil its mandate, which are to be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, requested the Council to review the situation at its second regular session of 1991, and requested the Secretary-General to include information on the implementation of the resolution in his next biennial report on UNDRO, to be submitted to the Assembly on an exceptional basis at its forty-sixth session, through the Council at its second regular session of 1991 (resolution 45/221).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

Item 17. Special economic and humanitarian assistance

(a) Special programmes of economic assistance

108. In its resolution 45/222 on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Yemen, the General Assembly, taking note of Council resolution 1990/65, called upon the Secretary-General to carry out an evaluation of the requirements of Yemen with a view to drawing up a programme for the reconstruction and development of Yemen, following the damage to the infrastructure of the country, and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council at its second regular session of 1991, on the implementation of the resolution. The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General.

109. In its resolution 45/226 on Operation Lifeline Sudan, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to monitor and assess the evolution of the emergency situation in the Sudan and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on all matters connected with the implementation of emergency and relief operations in the Sudan and to offer appropriate briefings during the intervening period. The Council will hear an oral report on the implementation of the resolution. A written report will be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

110. In its resolution 1991/3 on Emergency assistance to Somalia, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in view of the urgency of the situation in that country, to endeavour to apprise the Council, at its second regular session of 1991, of the progress made in the implementation of the resolution and to arrange for a comprehensive report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The Council will hear an oral report on the situation. A written report will be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

(b) Humanitarian assistance

111. The Council will hear oral reports on the progress made in the implementation of a number of resolutions on humanitarian assistance adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. Written reports will be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session. A brief summary of the main provisions of these resolutions is given below:

Resolution 45/154 on assistance to refugees in Somalia, in which the Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1991, of the progress made in their respective fields of responsibility with regard to the provisions of the resolution which concern them;

Resolution 45/157 on humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti, in which the Assembly urged the High Commissioner to intensify his efforts to mobilize, on an emergency basis, the resources

necessary to implement lasting solutions with respect to the refugees in Djibouti and the increasing inflow of externally displaced persons, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the implementation of the resolution;

Resolution 45/159 on assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary financial and material assistance for the full implementation of ongoing projects in the areas affected by the presence of refugees and displaced persons and programmes currently being implemented, requested the High Commissioner to continue coordination with the appropriate specialized agencies, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the implementation of the resolution;

Resolution 45/160 on the situation of refugees in the Sudan, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to mobilize the necessary financial and material assistance for the full implementation of ongoing projects in the areas affected by the presence of refugees, requested the High Commissioner to continue coordination with the appropriate specialized agencies, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council, on the implementation of the resolution;

Resolution 45/161 on assistance to refugees and returnees in Ethiopia, in which the Assembly requested the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of voluntary returnees and the large number of refugees in Ethiopia, and requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the High Commissioner, to apprise the Council, at its second regular session of 1991, on the implementation of the resolution;

Resolution 45/171 on assistance to student refugees in southern Africa, in which the Assembly requesced the High Commissioner, in cooperation with the Secretary-General, to continue to keep the matter under review and to apprise the Council, at its second regular session of 1991, of the current status of the programmes of assistance to student refugees in southern Africa and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Yemen

Item 18. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

112. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports annually to the General Assembly through the Council, in conformity with paragraph 11 of the

Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (General Assembly resolution 428 (V), annex). 13/

113. At its first regular session of 1991, in the context of its discussion of the provisional agenda and organization of work for the second regular session, the Council decided to conduct a debate on the report of the High Commissioner for Refugees at its second regular session of 1991.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/1991/65)

13/ In accordance with Council resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is transmitted to the General Assembly without debate, unless the Council decides otherwise, at the specific request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner, at the time its agenda is adopted.

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Item 18 of the provisional agenda*

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Note verbale dated 23 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Hungary to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to request that the Economic and Social Council during its second regular session of 1991 consider, under the relevant agenda item, the question of the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to the candidacy of Hungary for membership in the Executive Committee.

Hungary attaches particular significance to the enhancement of the role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and therefore wishes to further contribute to multilateral cooperation and to take an active part in finding durable solutions to the problems of refugees. Being party to the 1957 International Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and to the 1967 Protocol, Hungary closely cooperates with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which has established an office in Budapest. Hungary's joining of the Executive Committee, after active participation in its work as an observer, would mean not only the expression of legitimate concern for Eastern European refugee problems, but would also contribute to a more balanced regional representation within the Executive Committee.

Hungary remains devoted to the solution of refugee problems. Having received tens of thousands of refugees in past years, it has accumulated a

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* E/1991/100.

considerable amount of refugee case-law experience and continues to be committed to the protection of and international assistance to refugees.

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Hungary to the United Nations would appreciate having this note verbale circulated as an official document of the Economic and Social Council under item 18 of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991.

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ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT AND ITS SHORT-, MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS

Note by the Secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

1. The impact of the Gulf crisis was direct and devastating for several countries. For some others, among the developing countries, it substantially increased economic difficulties and reduced growth and growth prospects. It increased inflationary pressure in several countries where it adversely affected the implementation of adjustment and stabilization programmes. For the vast majority of oil-importing developing countries, it meant a deterioration in their terms of trade, increasing the balance-of-payments difficulties of the highly indebted among them. For many of the poorest countries - in particular, in sub-Saharan Africa - it implied further cuts of much needed imports.

2. The human costs were immeasurable. Much suffering and massive destruction was inflicted on the peoples in the war zone, particularly on the poorest. Not all the dead are counted yet, but at least 100,000 men, women and children died in the war. More than three times as many were injured; many disabled. The unprecedented environmental damage to climate and health is not yet fully assessed. The long-term consequences are yet to be determined since more than 400 oil wells are still burning or gushing oil. 1/ Millions of refugees and displaced persons suffered hardships and insecurity, and thousands of them still have to be resettled. Hundreds of thousands of migrant workers from developing countries had to flee the Gulf region, losing their livelihood overnight and abandoning savings and possessions. They and their families were suddenly impoverished. In the aftermath of the war, internal conflict in Iraq led to the flight of more than 2 million people - mostly Kurds, but also residents in the south. Many of them are back, but the dislocation in many towns and for thousands of families still persists.

3. The Gulf crisis affected peoples and individual countries in very different and uneven ways. The sudden jump in the price of oil contributed to a lowering of business and consumer confidence in the major developed countries. Such confidence was already being affected by an economic slowdown and by signs of recession, mainly in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. It is difficult to isolate and measure the indirect effect of the Gulf crisis, such as the negative multiplier effects of higher oil prices, in further slowing down the world economy and reducing demand for imports in the developed market economies.

4. On the whole the world economy has absorbed with relative ease the immediate shock of the Gulf crisis and of the war. 2/ Most estimates of the loss in world output growth attributed to the Gulf crisis do not reach a quarter of a percentage point in 1990. However, the estimated loss in GDP is higher - over half a percentage point - for the group of indebted oil-importing developing countries, where terms-of-trade losses were large and translated into a reduction in import volumes. Certain countries were affected very severely by trade disruption, increased oil bills, a worsening in their terms of trade, losses in workers remittances and in earnings from tourism and other services, and a massive influx of refugees and returning

migrants. The most affected countries were often ones which suffered from a combination of all these factors. 3/ Some of the adverse consequences, such as the costs of mobilizing coalition forces and the flare-up in oil prices, were temporary, although some of the inflationary reverberations were still being felt after the price of oil fell. Other consequences, such as the direct effects of the trade embargo, are still present - even if Kuwait has started some imports. And still others are of a long-term nature, such as the need to create employment for the repatriated and the renewed trend towards higher military expenditures in some countries in the Gulf area. The much reduced earnings from worker's remittances could also be of a long-term nature for some developing countries, given probable changes in the composition of the labour force in the Gulf area, in particular the composition of the foreign labour force.

I. RISE AND VOLATILITY OF OIL PRICES

5. The most widespread consequence of the Gulf crisis - the one that affected the largest number of countries - was the sudden increase in the price of crude oil and its extreme instability in the period between the invasion of Kuwait and the end of the war. 4/ Oil prices, which were about $17 per barrel at the end of July 1990, went up sharply and reached $40 by the end of September; they were swinging between $30 and $41 in October, before easing somewhat in the last months of 1990. The average price in 1990 was $22.20, 27 per cent higher than in 1989.

6. The rise in oil prices had adverse consequences for most oil-importing countries. A small number of countries, however, derived from it a short-lived windfall benefit. Several oil-exporting countries obtained higher revenues not only from the price increase but from additional exports that replaced supplies from Iraq and Kuwait after the embargo imposed by Security Council resolution 661 (1990). Countries that were producing below their capacity and that had, thus, enough flexibility to increase their production almost immediately had extra benefits. The combined oil revenues of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) member countries was $39 billion higher in 1990 than in 1989. This increment was $7.6 billion for the net oil-exporting developing countries that are not members of OPEC. The largest incremental oil export revenues were, among OPEC members, obtained by Iran, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. The largest increments in the value of oil exports outside OPEC were in Angola, Egypt, Malaysia and Mexico. In several oil-exporting countries the oil sector has a high weight in the economy, and thus, even if their incremental oil revenues were not among the largest, a high growth rate in domestic oil production in 1990 translated into higher GDP growth.

7. Contrary to the experience during the two past major oil price hikes, this time the increments in oil revenues were not available in large amounts for recycling or support to other developing countries. The reasons vary. In Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, war-related expenditures, including the support of foreign troops, absorbed much of the windfall revenue. In other

countries, such as Egypt, losses of workers remittances, tourism and other service revenues more than cancelled the extra oil revenue. And this time some of the net oil-exporting countries have large external debts, and, although the additional oil revenue temporarily improved their balance of payments, it did not bring about a surplus sufficient to expand lending activities.

8. The incremental oil bill of 1990 is estimated to have been $41 billion for the developed market economies, nearly $2 billion for Eastern Europe and $10 billion for oil-importing developing countries.

9. The rise in oil prices meant increased balance-of-payments pressure for the majority of developing countries. Energy consumption increases with the size of a country's industry and, thus, among the developing countries, it is not surprising that the largest increments in the oil bill, in absolute terms were borne by Brazil, India, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Turkey and Yugoslavia. The largest adverse impact, however, occurred in a number of small and poorer countries, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, where the oil bill is small in absolute terms, but where it weighs heavily on the balance of payments and as a share of national income. Moreover, lacking emergency oil stocks and having, in general, low foreign exchange reserves, developing countries lacked the flexibility to absorb a sudden price rise.

10. Table 1 presents estimates of the increment in the 1990 oil bill for countries adversely affected by the oil price rise. The list of countries includes only those for which information on the volume of imports in 1989 was available and for which the incremental oil bill is about 2 per cent of total foreign exchange earnings (the sum of merchandise exports, factor and non-factor service credits and private transfer earnings, mostly workers' remittances - that is, net of official transfers and private grants). The figures should be interpreted as underestimates, given that most of the countries import not only crude but also a mixture of crude and petroleum products. The average price of the mixture is higher than the crude price used in the estimates.

11. All the sub-Saharan African countries listed in table 1 had, together, an incremental oil bill of less than half a billion dollars. And yet for each of those countries the increment alone absorbed at least some 2 per cent of all their foreign exchange earnings; for most of them that share was above 3 per cent. Another category of developing countries hard hit by oil price rises are rapidly growing economies in a stage of industrialization in which the growth in energy consumption outstrips overall economic growth. Thailand, which had an estimated increment in its oil bill of at least $600 million in 1990, is such a case.

Table 1. Countries heavily affected by the increase in oil prices in 1990

Country a/	Estimated increment in the oil bill b/ (millions of $US)	As share of foreign exchange earnings c/
Bangladesh	62	2.5
Brazil	773	2.2
Bulgaria	302	1.9
Chad	4	2.0*
Chile	196	1.8
Czechoslovakia	416	2.4
Djibouti	4	8.6
Dominican Republic	76	3.3
El Salvador	28	2.4**
Ethiopia	33	4.8**
Ghana	31	3.3
Guatemala	36	2.2
Honduras	22	1.9
India	509	2.2*
Jamaica	61	2.9*
Jordan	119	3.9*
Kenya	65	3.2
Lebanon	113	16.8
Liberia	12	6.5**
Madagascar	12	2.3*
Mauritania	41	8.0*
Morocco	200	3.1*
Mozambique	14	9.7*
Nicaragua	27	7.5
Pakistan	303	5.8
Papua New Guinea	32	2.0*
Philippines	428	3.3*
Poland	491	3.0
Romania	227	2.2
Rwanda	6	3.5*
Senegal	50	3.7*
Seychelles	6	2.9*
Sri Lanka	58	2.5*
Sudan	43	3.5*
Thailand	585	2.2*

Table 1 (continued)

Country a/	Estimated increment in the oil bill b/ (millions of $US)	As share of foreign exchange earnings c/
Turkey	674	3.1*
Uganda	12	4.8*
United Republic of Tanzania	26	4.8*
Uruguay	65	2.9
Viet Nam	38	1.8
Yugoslavia	435	1.7*
Zambia	20	1.8
Zimbabwe	30	1.8

Source: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, preliminary estimates based on partial data.

* As share of 1989 foreign exchange earnings.

** As share of 1988 foreign exchange earnings.

a/ Countries for which the estimated 1990 incremental oil bill is equivalent to about 2 per cent and above of their foreign exchange earnings.

b/ Based on 1989 net imports in tons, assuming a 4 per cent increase in volume in 1990 and average oil prices of $17.50 per barrel in 1989 and $22.20 per barrel in 1990.

c/ Foreign exchange earnings are the sum of merchandise exports, service credit (factor and non-factor) and private transfer earnings, mainly workers remittances (i.e., net of official transfers and private grants).

12. The rise in oil prices in 1990 raised inflation in the developed market economies by an estimated half percentage point. It also increased inflationary pressure for net oil-importing developing countries. It seems that most countries passed on the increase in oil prices to the domestic users of energy, even though not always immediately or by the full amount of the increase. In Eastern European countries, the oil price increase added to inflationary pressures, complicating even further macro-economic management in the transition period. The oil price is far from being the only or even the most important inflationary factor in net oil-importing countries. Even so, it is no coincidence that inflation increased towards the fourth quarter of 1990 in the majority of oil-importing developing countries. 5/ For some high-inflation countries, domestic fuel prices had to be increased during the implementation of overall anti-inflationary policy packages, making more difficult the attempted reversal of inflationary expectations.

13. There can be no doubt about the unsettling impact that the invasion of Kuwait had on oil markets. But the course of oil prices after the initial shock were also affected by such an important decision as the increased production by OPEC members which made up for the shortfall caused by the withdrawal of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil resulting from the embargo. This failed to stem the demand from those who expected higher prices and shortfalls in case of war. Not until January 1991, when military force was deployed against Iraq, was it made clear that strategic oil reserves would be used to keep prices down. The disruptions caused by the gyrations of the oil price in the autumn of 1990 could have been avoided if a similar decision had been taken earlier. That this was not done was due to unclear ideas about the uses of strategic reserves. It was thought that they were not meant to be used for price stabilization but only in extreme emergencies, and the crisis occasioned by the invasion of Kuwait was not seen as sufficiently extreme to warrant a release of reserves. And yet, with hindsight, it seems that the widespread consequences of the temporary flare-up of the oil price in the second half of 1990 could have been avoided by earlier action to calm the markets. Once Iraq and Kuwait restore pre-conflict oil production levels, appropriate adjustments will need to be made by other OPEC members in their production levels so as to avoid a sharp decline in the price of oil.

II. THE FLIGHT OF MIGRANT WORKERS

14. In a number of developing countries, workers' remittances are an essential source of foreign exchange. Remittances from the Gulf area represent a high share in the balance of payments of the "new emigration countries" - those in which high levels of workers' emigration had followed the oil-price increases in the 1970s and was induced by rapid economic expansion in the oil-exporting countries. In a few of these countries - namely, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan and Yemen - recorded workers' remittances by the mid 1980s were almost as high or even higher than exports of merchandise. In 1989, recorded remittances were higher than merchandise exports in Egypt (113 per cent of merchandise exports). They were the equivalent of 77 per cent of merchandise exports in Sudan, and near 60 per cent in Bangladesh, Jordan and Yemen. 6/

15. No precise figures exist on the presence of foreign workers in the Gulf area, and the estimates of the numbers affected by the crisis have varied. It is known that prior to the crisis, the highest contingents of workers and their families living in Iraq and Kuwait were Egyptians (perhaps 1 million) and Palestinians and Jordanians (nearly half a million). It has been reported that half a million workers and their families returned to Egypt. Most of the 850,000 Yemeni workers and their families had to return from the Gulf area. The estimates of the number of returnees to Jordan vary from 330,000 to 400,000. Repatriations were also very high for a number of countries in South and East Asia: India (200,000), Pakistan (140,000), Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (about 100,000 each) and the Philippines (60,000). For a few more countries, such as Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam, the number of returnees, though smaller, is still important (see table 2).

16. Apart from the human costs of such a massive return over a short period of time, several countries have to face a reduction in workers' remittances which put an additional pressure on their balance of payments at a time in which their oil bill increased. Heaviest losses from remittances will fall on Egypt, Jordan, the scattered Palestinians, North Africa, Sudan, Yemen and several countries in South and East Asia (see table 2).

17. The loss in remittances are only a part of the story, for they do not include costs associated with repatriation, subsistence and job creation for returnees. In some cases these costs arise not only from the return of their own nationals but from the large presence of refugees. These costs can be important, as for Turkey. In some countries, the cost of resettling and providing a minimum of services to a large number of returnees is straining weak government budgets.

Table 2. Countries affected by repatriation and loss of remittances due to the Gulf crisis

Country	Recorded remittances, 1989 (millions of $US)	As percentage of merchandise exports, 1989	Number of returnees (thousands)	Estimated yearly loss of remittances (millions of $US)	As share of foreign exchange earnings a/
Bangladesh	758	58.1	100	160	6.4
Egypt	4 257	113.4	500	1 270	10.2
India	2 819	17.5	200	400	1.7
Jordan	627	56.5	400	400	13.3
Lebanon	...	...	50	150	22.4
Mauritania	5	1.1	...	3	0.6
Morocco	1 336	40.3	...	...	...
Pakistan	2 010	41.0	140	300	3.7
Philippines	1 362	17.4	60	60	0.5
Somalia	20	29.5	...	...	...
Sri Lanka	356	22.8	100	110	4.7
Sudan	417	76.8	30	300	24.2
Syrian Arab Republic	355	12.6	50	360	7.0
Thailand	942	4.7	10	10	0.04
Tunisia	488	16.6	...	100	1.8
Viet Nam	...	...	16	20	1.0
Yemen	438	60.8	850	450	40.3
Yugoslavia	6 290	46.4	4	23	0.1

Source: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations estimates, based on IMF balance-of-payments data, country submissions to the Security Council and other sources.

a/ Foreign exchange earnings are the sum of merchandise exports, factor and non-factor services credit and private transfer earnings - mostly remittances (i.e., net of official transfers and private grants).

III. THE IMPACT ON TRADE AND TOURISM

18. Soon after the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, the Security Council approved a trade embargo against Iraq. For world trade in goods and services as a whole, the effects of the trade embargo were small, given that Kuwait and Iraq together accounted for less that 1 per cent of world merchandise trade. Freights increased due to higher fuel prices, and insurance prices went up, but it is unlikely that the higher cost of transport, together with the trade embargo, had more than a half percentage point impact on the overall level of world trade in 1990.

19. Country-specific effects of the trade embargo, however, were very large in some cases. 7/ For only half a dozen countries - mostly developing countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Romania, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Yugoslavia - the share of merchandise exports to Iraq and Kuwait in total foreign exchange earnings was over 1 per cent (see table 3).

20. Jordan was the most adversely affected country, since Iraq and Kuwait represented about 20 per cent of its export markets in 1989, and the corresponding export earnings were about 9 per cent of its total foreign exchange earnings. It is followed by Turkey (for which the corresponding figure is 6 per cent of total foreign exchange earnings) and Lebanon (7 per cent). Other countries for which the export loss from the trade embargo is relatively heavy are Romania, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia.

21. For a few countries the interruption of imports due to the implementation of the embargo caused especial difficulties. Countries that relied on supplies from Iraq and Kuwait for a high proportion of their oil imports suffered from the disruption in energy supplies. Most vulnerable were those countries that did not have emergency stocks of oil or hard currency reserves which would have allowed them to switch instantly to the spot market for alternative oil supplies. Jordan, in particular, which received 80 per cent of its oil from Iraq, had to rearrange its supplies. 8/ Cyprus and Turkey also received most of their oil from Iraq. The share of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil in total oil imports was 50 per cent for Pakistan and 20 per cent for India and the Philippines. Other countries that had a high share of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil in their oil imports and suffered from a disruption in their previous supplies include Mauritius, Romania, Seychelles, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Table 3. Direct impact of the trade embargo

Country a/	Exports to Iraq and Kuwait, 1989 b/ (millions of $US)	Potential yearly losses of exports as share of total foreign exchange earnings c/
Bangladesh	13	0.5
Brazil	435	1.0
India	153	1.0
Jordan	263	9.0
Lebanon	47	7.0
Mauritania	4	1.0
Morocco	48	1.0
Poland	56	0.5
Romania	846	8.0 d/
Sri Lanka	54	2.5
Sudan	3	0.5
Thailand	142	0.5
Tunisia	54	1.0
Turkey	1 299	6.0
United Arab Emirates	193	1.5
Uruguay	25	1.0
Yugoslavia	352	1.5

Source: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations estimates, based on IMF direction of trade and balance-of-payments data, and national sources.

a/ Countries listed are those for which exports to Iraq and Kuwait in 1989 represented at least half a percentage point of their total foreign exchange earnings.

b/ Imports by Iraq and Kuwait.

c/ Exports over total foreign exchange earnings, calculated as the sum of merchandise exports, services credit (factor and non-factor) and private transfer earnings - mainly worker remittances (i.e., net of official transfers and private grants). Shares are rounded to the nearest half percentage point.

d/ Share in merchandise exports.

22. The impact of the embargo and of the Gulf crisis on trade in services was equally uneven. Tourism and transportation, in particular, suffered world wide in 1990 and even more so in the first quarter of 1991, from the combined effect of recession, higher fuel prices and widespread fear of flying induced by the Gulf crisis and later by the war. The international air transport and travel industry was badly hurt; the effects even trickled down to the producers of photographic material. Final numbers are not in yet, but estimates of a 20-25 per cent decline in overall travel trade during the southern hemisphere summer season do not seem exaggerated. 9/ In the Gulf region, of course, the decline in tourism was directly related to the conflict. Apart from Iraq and Kuwait, the heaviest losses were incurred by Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. 10/ Estimates of the loss in tourism revenues in 1990-1991 in the Gulf "front-line" States go as high as $1 billion for Egypt, $700 million for Jordan, $1.3 billion for Turkey. 11/ Some Asian countries in which tourism had been growing very fast in recent years, such as Thailand and Indonesia, also saw a decline in tourist arrivals from North America and Europe, even though their overall tourism earnings continued to increase.

23. Lost service contracts and service fees were important for a few countries, such as fees for commercial shipping through the Suez Canal for Egypt, transit trade fees from trucking and from the port of Aqaba for Jordan, pipeline and transport fees for Turkey. Some countries were affected by the cessation of Iraqi debt servicing, especially Central and Eastern European countries that were being repaid in oil, or by the loss of Iraqi oil that was being supplied on concessional terms. Other countries lost aid, either on political grounds, given their position in the conflict (like Yemen), or owing to the decline in foreign aid and project finance that had been available from Kuwait, Iraq and regional development funds such as the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

IV. MEASURES TAKEN IN SUPPORT OF THE AFFECTED COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

24. Almost immediately after the invasion of Kuwait, bilateral efforts by developed and developing countries and multilateral efforts, in particular by the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, were undertaken to cope with the problem of refugees, displaced persons and foreign communities in Iraq and Kuwait affected by the economic sanctions. Such efforts were directed to avoid hunger and malnutrition, reduce health hazards and speed up the return of migrant workers and their families to their countries of origin. At the end of the military conflict, a major concern arose regarding the situation of civilian populations in Iraq and Kuwait. The Secretary-General appointed a Special Representative to visit both countries in March and assess the needs for humanitarian assistance. Non-governmental organizations also responded rapidly to help countries involved in the conflict. More recently, humanitarian efforts - bilateral and multilateral, including the non-governmental organizations - have focused on displaced persons in the aftermath of the military conflict, in particular, the Kurdish population.

25. In the economic sphere, some support to oil-importing developing countries was provided by oil-exporting countries. OPEC member countries recommended in a meeting of August 1990 that additional supplies from OPEC should be primarily directed to developing countries. Nigeria pledged to supply oil at favourable prices to several African countries. Mexico and Venezuela extended the San José Accord and agreed to sell oil on concessional terms to five Central American countries. 12/ Despite these actions, the oil bill of energy-importing developing countries went up.

26. The consultations mechanism established by the Security Council in accordance with article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations provided, for those countries that have requested consultations, a forum to examine the special economic problems arising from the implementation of the trade embargo. But it does not have a financial support arrangement directly related to it or other forms of material assistance.

27. The largest funds made available to assist countries most affected by the Gulf crisis have been channelled through the Washington-based Gulf Crisis Financial Coordination Group (GCFCG), which is assisted by the IMF and the World Bank. Some two thirds of the nearly $16 billion pledged through the GCFCG were earmarked to the "front-line" States - Egypt, Jordan and Turkey. The rest was intended for other countries affected by the crisis which joined the coalition. There is no full detail about the exact distribution of the assistance provided via GCFCG. 13/

28. The World Bank group announced an increase in financial assistance from IBRD of $1.1 billion in 1991, for lending to the affected countries, and an expanded international development assistance (IDA) programme of about $630 million special drawing rights (SDR). Three quarters of the overall IDA programme in response to the Gulf crisis were to be used to assist the most immediately affected countries, starting with Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The IDA programme also includes emergency operations in Egypt and Yemen aimed at setting up infrastructure, social services and employment-creation programmes for repatriated workers. The remainder would go to low-income countries most seriously affected in Africa and Central America. 14/

29. Support by the IMF was provided in the context and under the conditions of the existing comprehensive adjustment programmes. It was not considered necessary to create new instruments to provide financial relief to the Fund's members that are facing balance-of-payments difficulties derived from the Gulf crisis. Assistance was to be provided under the existing arrangements, including stand by, the structural adjustment facility (SAF), the enhanced structural adjustment facility (ESAF) and the compensatory and contingency financing facility (CCFF). Adjustments were made, however, to take into account the balance-of-payments shocks coming from the Gulf crisis. Temporarily, an oil import element was introduced into the compensatory and contingency financing facility to cover excess costs of imports of crude petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas. Countries making use of it were required to undertake satisfactory energy policy actions prior to any

drawing. The IMF disbursed some SDR 2 billion to nine members, mostly from Eastern Europe, under the oil element of the compensatory and contingency financing facility. Some flexibility and increased access to some of the Fund's facilities were introduced, and the coverage of the compensatory and contingency financing facility became broader. While previously only workers' remittances and travel receipts could be included in the calculations of export shortfalls to be financed, in November 1990 the coverage of IMF compensatory financing was extended to include losses in other services, such as receipts from pipelines, canals, shipping, transportation, construction and insurance. The requirement that financial assistance was to be provided only in the context of a stand-by arrangement or an adjustment programme was not modified.

30. The hardships brought about by the conflict have led to various efforts of humanitarian nature and new or strenghtened forms of economic assistance to cope with the problems that arose. Yet difficulties persist, as examined above. Some of the consequences of the events in the Gulf area will be long term. It is thus important to monitor future developments, in particular in countries that have been seriously affected. Moreover, a continuous assessment of cooperation efforts in relation to the needs emerging as a result of the Gulf crisis is required so that these countries are enabled to overcome the difficulties left in its aftermath.

Notes

1/ See "Report to the Secretary-General by a United Nations mission led by Mr. Abdulrahim A. Farah, former Under-Secretary-General, assessing the scope and nature of damage inflicted on Kuwait's infrastructure during the Iraqi occupation of the country from 2 August 1990 to 27 February 1991" (S/22535, 29 April 1991); World Economic Survey, 1991 (United Nations publication, forthcoming), box 5.1; "Up in flames: Kuwait's burning oil wells are a sad test of theories", Scientific American (May 1991), pp. 17-24.

2/ For an analysis of the impact of the Gulf crisis on the world economy and on growth in individual countries, see World Economic Survey, 1991 (United Nations publication, forthcoming), chap. II. See also "The impact of the Gulf crisis on developing countries". Briefing paper, Overseas Development Institute, London, March 1991; "The economic impact of the Gulf crisis on third world countries". Memorandum to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, jointly submitted by Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, Catholic Institute for International Relations, Christian Aid, OXFAM, Save the Children Fund and World Development Movement, London, March 1991; African Development Bank, African Development Report, 1991, pp. 40-43; Asian Development Bank, Asian Development Outlook, 1991, box 1.1.

3/ The loss of human lives and the large-scale destruction of physical assets in Iraq and Kuwait are of a different nature and are not treated here. See "Report to the Secretary-General on humanitarian needs in Kuwait and Iraq in the immediate post-crisis environment by a mission to the area led by

Notes (continued)

Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management" (S/22366, 20 March 1991). See also report of a mission to Kuwait led by Mr. Abdulrahim A. Farah (S/22535, 29 April 1991).

4/ For detailed analysis of the tumult in the international energy market in 1990, see World Economic Survey, 1991 (United Nations publication, forthcoming), chap. V.

5/ For oil-importing developing countries for which information is available, inflation between the second and the last quarters of 1990 accelerated in three quarters of the cases. Countries for which inflation is low (below an annual 10 per cent) or very high (over 100 per cent) are not included in this comparison.

6/ Recorded remittances should be taken as the lowest estimates. The actual flow is higher than recorded in balance-of-payments assistance. See "The impact of workers' remittances on the balance of payments", Supplement to the World Economic Survey, 1983 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.C.3).

7/ After Security Council resolution 661 was adopted on 6 August 1990, the following countries requested consultations in accordance to article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations, regarding special economic problems arising from the carrying out of the resolution: Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Djibouti, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen and Yugoslavia.

8/ See "Report on a mission to Jordan undertaken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Jean Ripert, former Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation" (S/21938, 13 November 1990).

9/ According to a survey of international airlines, hotels and travel agents prepared in January 1991 by the United States Travel and Tourism Administration, some two thirds thought their long-haul business was off by more than 40 per cent ("Broadening the mind: a survey of world travel and tourism", The Economist (23 March 1991)). In March 1991, the European Community took the decision to support European airlines temporarily from some of the air travel repercussions of the Gulf war (Financial Times, 18 March 1991)).

10/ See GATT Newsletter, No. 80 (April 1991). See also World Economic Survey, 1991 (United Nations publication, forthcoming), chap. III.

11/ International Monetary Fund/World Bank staff calculations, requested by the Gulf Crisis Financial Coordination Group.

Notes (continued)

12/ The arrangement is that the cost of oil would be returned to the five Central American nations (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) via two credit routes. About 20 per cent would go directly into the central banks of each nation, and the remaining 80 per cent to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to finance development projects under moderate interest rates and five-year repayment schemes. If the price of oil falls below $17 per barrel, this financing mechanism is eliminated. If it goes beyond $27 per barrel, the ratio of the central bank to IDB changes from 20:80 to 30:70.

13/ Commitments by April 1991 had totalled nearly $16 billion, of which about half had been disbursed.

14/ The World Bank and the IMF have suggested a mechanism for coordination of the assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction to countries affected by the Gulf crisis and the war; some type of consultative meeting between the individual recipient country and donor Governments within and outside the region and with multilateral and regional institutions.